

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DIORI INTERVIEW WITH "LE FIGARO"

SUMMARY. IN INTERVIEW WITH TWO JOURNALISTS FROM "LE FAGARO"
CARRIED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPTER DEC 14, PRISIDENT
DIORI SPOKE ON PROBLEMS PRESENTLY FACED BY AFRICAN
STATES, MONETARY PROBLEMS, EURAFRICA, RELATIONS BETWEEN
NORTH AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. DIORI STATED INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES HAVE REALIZED
THEIR REAL PROBLEMS ARE ECONOMIC AND THUS HAVE MULTIPLIED
EFFORTS FORM VIABLE REGIONAL GROUPINGS. SPEAKING ON
MONETARY SITUATION, HE NOTED NEED FOR A PRICE STABLIZATION
SYSTEM FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM
TO FOMULATE WORKABLE FIVE-YEAR PLANS. HE SUGGESTED OIL-
RICH NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUPPORT PRICES PRIMARY PRODUCTS
FOR POORER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, IDEALLY THROUGH PRICE
STABLIZATION BOARDS. IN ADDITION HE SAW NEED FOR
STIMULATING TRADE BETWEEN COUNTRIES ON THE COAST AND
THOSE IN INTERIOR AS WELL AS THAT BETWEEN NORTH AND SUB-
SAHARAN AFRICA.

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2. DIORI PRAISED THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARASTATAL AGENCIES,

SUCH AS COPRO-NIGER (IMPORT-EXPORT AGENCY) AND OPVN (NATIONAL CEREALS OFFICE) IN NIGER, BECAUSE INTER ALIA NIGERIENS RECEIVED BUSINESS EXPERIENCE THROUGH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS.

3. SPEAKING ON EURAFRICAN RELATIONS, DIORI DECLARED EUROPE HAD AN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA BECAUSE THEY SHARE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AND SHOULD BE MORE WILLING COOPERATE WITH AFRICAN NATIONS ECONOMICALLY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER NIGER ENVISIONED CREATION OF A COMMON BANK WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY, DIORI REVEALED LIBYANS HAD APPROACHED GON WITH OFFER PARTICIPATION IN BDRN (NIGER DEVELOPMENT BANK) AND NIGER WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED.

5. ON SUBJECT OF FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT NOV 13, PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED BELIEF THAT NEWLY CREATED ORGANISM WOULD GO LONG WAY IN HARMONIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND AFRICAN PARTNERS. HE STRESSED POINT THAT MEETING WITH POMPIDOU WAS ON BASIS OF EQUALITY.
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